'1'111': THERMALBALANCEOFFHE\ENUSATMOSPHERE

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Observations of the Venus thermal structure collected during the first three decades of the space age reveal high surface temperatures (730 K), nearadiabatic vertical temperature gradients throughout the lower atmosphere (0.58 km), and a reversed pole to equator mesospheric thermal structure, with polar temperatures that are ~ 20 K higher than those over the equator at altitudes between 70 and 100 km. The physical processes that maintain these anomalous features of the thermal balance were not completely understood when this topic was last reviewed in the early 1980's. Since that time, additional observations have provided an improved description of the atmospheric thermal structure and optical properties. Here, we summarize the new observational constraints provided by the Venera 15, VEGA, and Galileo missions, and those provided by Earth-based ultra-violet, nearinfrared, and microwave observations. We also describe recent advances in modeling methods that have resolved some of the most perplexing issues, including (i) the need for unidentified thermal opacity sources to explain the high surface temperatures and atmospheric thermal flux distribution, (ii) the effects of reduced water vapor and cloud abundances on the greenhouse, and (iii) the processes that maintain the anomalously warm polar mesosphere.

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Microwave observations collected during the 1950's provided the first evidence for the high surface temperatures and hot lower atmosphere of Venus [Mayer et al., 1958; Drake, 1, 962; Kuz'min and Salomonovich,

should have radiative equilibrium brightness temperature in at 2304 K, in tem arkable agreement with value, inferred from available infrared observa tow, [Moroz, 1983]. The high inic rowave brightness temperatures there fore stimulated a spirited debate about their origin, and their implications for the Venus thermal balance.

Investigations of the ther malbalance of the deep atmosphere of Venus were a major focus of both the US and Soviet space programs during the first two decades of the space age. In-situ measurements acquired by the Venera 4-14 and Pronect Venus (f'1') entryprobes confirmed that the atmospheric temperatures increase from ~ 22.5 K at the ("1011(1 tops($\sim 65 \,\mathrm{km}$)tovaluesnear730K, alt he surface (1 igure 1)[Seiff, 1983]. These observations also provided improved constraints on the composition and optical properties of the massive (90 bar), predominately CO2 at mosp here. This information has been my orporated into progressively more sophisticated and reliable numerical adiative transfer models for studies of the thermal balance. These models indicate that the high surface temperatures are maintained by an efficient, sol ar-driven, at mospheric greenhouse mechanism [Pollack, et al. 1980], but there are several details of the deep-atmosphere thermal balance that are still poorly understood. In particular, observations and theoretical models available during the late 1970's and early 1980's indicated that the thermal opacity provided by known infrared active gases $(CO_2, H_2O, SO_2, HF, HCl)$ and H_2SO_4 acrosols might not be adequate to maintain temperatures as high as those observed at the surface and in the lower at mosphere of Venus. To produce the required thermal opacity, large numbers of tiny, invisible Mode (/ particles were added to the clouds, almost doubling their total mass. The relatively stable temperature lapse rates observed throughout the deep at mosphere (Figure 2) are also poorly understood within the context of these greenhouse models, which require near-r leutral stability (i.e. adiabatic lapse rates) at t hese levels. More recent observations, laboratory investigations, and modeling studies have provided improved constraints out the thermal opacity of the deep atmosphere, and contributed additional support for t he greenhouse hypothesis. However, a complete, self-consistent mo del of the Venus deep at mosphere thermal structure has not yet been developed. The thermal balance of the deep at mosphere is reviewed in greater (i('t ail in SectionIV.

Even though spaced aft and ground-based observations have provided new insight into the thermalbalance of the deep atmosphere, they have also revealed a few additional surprises. Perhaps the most striking example is the discovery of there versed, equator to pole temperature gradients and the warrin polar dipole structure atmesospheric levels [Taylor et al. 1979; 1980] (Figure 3.) At altitudes between 70.90 km, the equator to pole temperature gradients reverse, such that polarine grous are up to 20 K warmerthan the equator Taylor et al. 1979; 1980;

Khore and /)(//C/1982; Khore 1991]—1 ng persistance of this anomalous thermal structure has been confirmed by routine PV and Magellan radio occultation observations, and by observations acquired in 1983.

1)\[\] the Venera 15 spectrophotometer [Zasor a and Moro—1992] and I hose taken in 1990 by the Galileo Near Infrared Mapping Spectrometer (NLMS) [Carlson et al. 1991]. The radiative and dynamical processes responsible for maintaining this arioma lous mesospheric temperature gradients were rior yet known in the early 1980's when [Taylor et al. 1983] reviewed this topic in Venus. Modeling studies concincted during the 1980's have since provided a significant in sight into the se processes, however. These studies indicate that the observed thermal structure is aconsequence of the interaction she two enthesertic ally-propagating at mospheric thermal tides and the zona superrotation [Fels and Lindzen 1971; Baker and Leovy 1987; Newman and Leovy, 1992]. The the unal balance of the mesosphere is described in Section N*.

11. THERMAL BAL ANCE METHODS

011 aterrestrial planet, where internal sources contribute little to the

$$F_t = 4\pi r^2 \epsilon \sigma T_c^4 \tag{2}$$

$$T_e := [(1 - a_s)F_{\rm C}R_s^2/(4\epsilon\sigma R_s^2)]^{1-4} \tag{3}$$

where $\sigma : 5.669 \times 10^{-8}$ W m⁺² K⁺⁴ is the Stefan Boltzmann constant. At a distance of 0.7233 AU from the sun. Venus receives almost twice as much solar radiation as the Earth +2624 vs. 1373 W m⁻²).

but its highly-re-flective, planet enembing, sulfuric acid clouds scatter about 76% of this sunlight back to space before transbeads or bod by the surface or atmosphere [Mor oz.1983]. With this high albedo, Venus absorbs about 157 W/m², or about 65% as much solar energy as the Earth. '1'() remain in thermal equilibrium. Venus must emit the same amount or energy to space. If Venus emits a a black body, (ϵ = 1) Equation 3 gives an effective globally averaged emission temperature near 230 k. This value is remarkably consistent with results inferred from ground-based infi ared observations acquired during the first half of this century, which revealed cloud top temperatures between 225 and 240 K on both the day and night sides of the planet [Pettit and Nicholson 1955; Sinton and Strong, 1, 960].

The Thermal Equilibrium Temperature Profile

The preceding results describe only the globall v-averaged thermal balance of the surface-atmosphere system.



$$T_s := [2I_{\odot}(1 + a_s)/\sigma]^{1/4}.$$
 (8)

Even though this simple example illustrates the basic physics of a solar-driven atmospher 1C given how semiconnum. In employs several assumptions that are not valid. Iot. Venus. For example, on Venus, the solar energy is not deposited primarily at the surface but within the planet-wide $\rm H_2SO_4$ clouds. The globally-averaged solar flux absorbed ill, the Venus surface is only 20.3. No m² or about 13% of the total solar flux absorbed by the system. In addition the wavelength dependence of the atmospheric opacity was also over simplified in this simple example. In reality, the Venus at mosphere absorbs and scatters a significant amount of solar radiation. It also

In general, the thermal balance of planetary atmosphere is determined by solving the thermodynamic energy equation [c.f. Andrews, Holton and Leovy, 1987]:

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \frac{u}{r\cos\phi}\frac{\partial T}{\partial\lambda} + \frac{v}{r}\frac{\partial T}{\partial\phi} + w\left[\frac{\partial T}{\partial z} + \Gamma\right] = Q,$$

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = -1\rho c_p \frac{\partial F}{\partial z},$$

where the globally-averaged net heating rate at each level, Q, has been expressed in terms of the vertical divergence of the horizontally-averaged net fluxes, F, and the horizontally-averaged atmospheric density, \bar{p} . Even though the vertical heat advection term $(w|\partial I/\partial z + \Gamma]$

in Eq. 9) must varie is to satisfy global mass continuity the globally-averaged net convective he at fluxes are marzer and the vertical velocities and temperature variations are (or rela[C(11/, not an isses cold auxinks). T1lCs{'fluxes have therefore been inclinded on the right hand side of Eq. 10, such that the globally averaged heating rate at each 1(, C'(,1 depends on the vertical divergence of the net radiative, convective, chemical, and late in the atfluxes

To solve for the globally-averaged equilibrium temperature structure of a planetary atmosphere. I-DRCE models express Eq. 10 as an initial value problem in finite difference form

$$\tilde{T}_{i+1,j} = T_{i,j} + \frac{\delta t}{\tilde{\rho}_{i,j}} c_{p} \left[\frac{F_{i,j+1/2} - F_{i,j-1/2}}{z_{j+1/2} - z_{j-1/2}} \right]. \tag{11}$$

where the current time step is denoted with the inde x. i, and the model levels are indicated with the index, j. This equation requires both initial conditions and a boundary condition on the fluxes at the surface or at the top of the atmosphere. 'I heinitial temperature distribution can be chosen at random or derived from available observations. The boundary condition can take the form of a time-dependent relationship describing the surface energy balance (i.e. the time-varying surface heat flux), or be specified as a constantatthelowestorhighest atmospheric level (i.e. the solar flux at the top of the atmosphere, or a constant upward heat flux at the top of the tropopause). The radiativeconvective equilibrium temperature structure can then be derived by explicitly marching this equation forward in time [c.f. Gierasch and Goody 1968: Crisp, 1989] or by employing an implicit iteration scheme. like Newton-Raphson [c.f. Pollack and Ohring, 1973; Ramanathan, 197 6]. In either case, the net fluxes must be evaluated throughout the atmosphere at each iteration. When the atmosphere reaches thermal equilibrium, the net flux divergence vanishes at in levels and this iterative procedure converges.

The various components of the net flux behave differently as the temperature distribution evolves to radiative equilibrium. For Venus, neither latent or chemical heat fluxes are thought to be important to the thermal balance at altitudes below the mesopause (~ 100 km). These quantities will therefore not be discussed further. Convective heat fluxes are assumed to be significant only at levels were the temperature lapse rates exceed the local adiabatic lapse rate. These fluxes come therefore vary substantially as the temperature structure evolves and radiative forcing produces convectively-unstable regions. The globally-averaged solar fluxes and heating rates remain almost constant as the temperature structure evolves, because the total solar insolation changes very 11111(, 011 Venus, and the atmospheriophical properties are weak functions of temperature '1'110' thermal fluxes and committates change

to thermal balance are summarized below source function depends strongly on temperature. These contributions much more rapidly as the temperature evolves, because the [hermal

Convective Heat Transport

to thermal radiation [Pollack, 1969b]. They are also important within the middle cloud layer, which is heated strongly from below by upout much of the lower atmosphere of Venus, which is relatively opaque relling thermal radiation, and cools effectively to space from its uper regions [Pollack et al. 1980; Ingersoll et al. 1987; Crisp et al. et been widely used for studies of the Venus thermal balance. ertical temperature gradient exceeds the local adiabatic lapse rate in ause it does not require instantaneous heat transport, but it has not stimate convective fluxes in 1-D RCE models [Gierasch and Goody. Wetheruld. 1967]. Prandl's mixing length theory has also been used to ny model layer, enough heat is instantaneously transported from the le "convective adjustment" process. In this approach, each time the 990]. Convection is usually simulated in 1-D RCE models by a simottom to the top of the layer to stabilize the lapse rate [Manabe and Convective processes dominate the vertical heat transport through This method is more realistic than convective adjustment be-

Radiative Heat Transport



$$\frac{dI(\tau,\mu_{\phi},\mu,\phi,\nu)}{d\tau} := I(\tau,\mu_{\phi},\mu,\phi,\nu) - S(\tau,\mu_{\phi},\mu,\phi,\nu), \tag{12}$$

azimuth angle, ν is the monochromatic wavenumber (cm⁻¹) at which of the atmosphere), μ is the cosine of the local zenith angle, ϕ is the where τ is the column-integrated optical depth. (measured from the top

THERMAL BALANCE OF THE VENU

$$F \uparrow (\tau, \mu_{\odot}, \nu) := \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^1 I(\tau, \mu_{\odot}, \mu, \phi, \nu) \, \mu \, d\mu d\phi. \tag{14}$$

$$F \downarrow (\tau, \mu_{\odot}, \nu) := \int_{0}^{2\pi} \int_{0}^{-1} I(\tau, \mu_{\odot}, \mu, \phi, \nu) \, \mu \, d\mu \, d\phi. \tag{15}$$

The total net radiative flux at each level is then determined by integrating these quantities over wavenumber:

$$F_{q}^{N}(\tau) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d}} I(\tau, \eta, \eta) (\eta \eta), \qquad (1s)$$

10 yield the global averagenetradiative flux at each level, or integrated over a latitude band

$$F_d^N(\tau, \triangle) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^\pi F^N(\tau, \mu_{\odot}(\lambda, \phi')) d\phi'. \tag{19}$$

to give the diminally-averaged netradiative flux at latitude, λ

Several accurate numerical methods have been developed to solve these equations [c.f. Goody and Yunq, 1989], but these methods are still not widely used for the malbalance calculations because they are too computationally demanding. The principal problem is that these equations describe the fluxes for a specified monochromatic spectral point, ν , solar zenit hangle, μ_{\odot} , temperature distribution, $\tau(\tau)$, and optical depth distribution, τ For 1-1) RCE models, radiative fluxes are needed at wavenumbers throughout the solar and thermal spectra, as well as for a range of solar zenithangles, temperature profiles, and optical depth distributions. In addition, for thermal balance calculations, these radiative fluxes must be re-evaluated many times as the derived thermal structure evolves.

The spectral resolution is determined by the requirement that the solar and thermal source functions and all significant atmospheric and surface—opacity variations be completely resolved. The thermal source function and the optical properties of the surface and airborne particulates change relatively slowly with wavenumber, such that a few hundred points would be adequated one solve their spectra. The spectra of absorbing gases can vary much more rapidly, however. 1 for example, there are hundreds of thousands of $\rm CO_2$ and $\rm H_2O$ vibration-rotation lines that contribute significant opacity of the Venus atmosphere at

(iii) employ assumptions about the β , ugul at dependence of the radiation field (e.g. two stream or δ Edding tou methods). The β methods β is dramatically improve the efficiency of 1(1). RCE models, but the γ can also introduce errors that conspictures their results. The principal approximations employed in each their real balance study are described in Sections IV and V.

111. TEMPERATURES AND OPTICAL

writer vapor mr xing ratios between < 0.5 ppmv and 10 ppmv [Barker, 1975] but the PAOrbiter lift rated Radiometer (OIR) detected mixing ratios more than twice this large (1 (10-t 40 ppmv) at mid-latitudes in the mid-afternoon.

SO₂ has a strong rotation band in the far in fraced (< 1.")() ('111 1). and vibration rotation fundamentals centered near (151.7 $(\nu_{\rm F})$). 517.75 (ν_2) , and 1362 (ν_3) . It also **nil**\ significant overtone bands near 2500 and 405 0 cm⁻¹. This gas is the principal source of opacity at near-UV waveleng this between 30000 and $50000 \, \text{cm}^{-1}$ (0.2 and 0.33 %111). SO₂ mixing ratios vary with altitude, and time [Lisposito et al., 1988]. 1717 entry probe observations indicate mixing ratios <600 ppmy at 52 km, >170 pprny at 42 kiii, and 185 (43 ppiny at 22 km. The Venera 12 Gas Chromatograph measured values near 130 ± 35 at 22 km [c.f. von Zahn ctal1983, in Venus]. Recent near-infrared observations suppor I t hese results, indicating values near 130±40 near the cloud base [Bézard et al 1993]. Above the ('loll(Is, SO₂ mixing ratios near ().1 ppmv were det ec ted in the late 1970's by ground-based observers [Barker, 1979]. and instruments on the PV Orbite [Esposito c/al 1979], but the abundance of this gas above the (IOU(I topshas decreased by about an order of magnitude

atmosphere Aerosol op acity to the upper (1011) layer—III most thermalb, dance studies, this unknown LV absorber is included as an impurity in the Mode / particles at levels within the upper (loud _ rg do ii is, the single scattering albedos of iii. Gparticles are 16 (111 (7) at near UV wavelengths by the amounts needed to produce the observed spectrally dependent geometrical bedo of \ enus [$c\ f\ Crisp, 1986$]

IV. THERMALBALANCEOFTHEDEEPATMOSPHERE

Much of the early work on the thermal balance of the deep atmosphere was reviewed by Tomasko in Venus. That work will therefore only be briefly summarized here to set the stage for subsequent observational and modeling studies. We will then review recent observational studies that have provided improved constraints on the thermal structure, the distribution of solar and thermal radiation, and

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this high altitude emission should produce a limb brightened disk. I. III. constraint ((1111(1) notbetested (111 (CLZ)) from the Y,IO1III (1, however, because the incrowave instruments available at that 11111 ((11(1) not provide the spartial resolution needed to resolve the Venus disk. I he Mariner 2 flyby (112 Venus in December of 1962 provided the first opportunity 1(1) test this hypothesis. Its high spatial resolution microwave observations showed that the Venus disk was limb darkened at wavelengths near 1.0("111. 411("SC1() sults largely precluded the ionospheric Origin for the high brightness temperatures.

Both observations and theoretical [[10(dels of the Venus atmosphere evolved substantially by 1967, when *Venera* 4 entered the



were 11111 (11 largerthanthe interred from exiting "ID 11)(1 based observations [Kuiper et al 196) Belton and Hunten 1966] Venera 4 observations provided a tentative detection of wittervapor below the clouds, but existing ground based inflared spectroscopic observations appeared to 1)1' ('C111(1)' ward as amajorcon indirent of the ('1011(1s. If the ('10(1)'s were not composed of water, the varight not be sufficiently transparent at visible wavdengths, or sufficiently opaque at their mal wavelengths to produce the invining greenhousewarming.

Ground-based and spacer in observations made in the early 1970's provided new information about the thermal balance of the Venus atmosphere. Ground-based spectroscopy [YOV 1973; Pollack et al. 1974] and polarimetry [Hansen and Hovenie / 1974] showed that the crossing were consisted to of concentrated $\rm H_2SO_4 droplets$, withmodal radii near 1 μ m. Venera 8 solar flux measurements confirmed that some of the incident sunlight penetrated to the surface of Venus, and that the

and many other features of the observed thermal structure including this opacity, they were able to simulate the high surface temperatures, of tiny, (ref. $\leq 0.07 \mu m$) "Mode 0" particles in the upper cloud. With and postulated the presence of large numbers (> 10⁵ particles cm enough thermal opacity to maintain the observed thermal structure, region within the middle cloud. the stable region near the base of the clouds, and the neutrally-stable found that the observed cloud particle populations did not provide ments also showed that the H₂SO₄ clouds provided less thermal opacopacity was largely compensated by CO2 pressure induced bands and ity than earlier greenhouse models had assumed. Pollack et al. [1980] lengths, which were neglected in the earlier models. the strong SO₂ vibration rotation fundamentals at mid infrared wavein earlier greenhouse models (> 3000 ppmv), but the reduced water water vapor below the clouds (100 to 1000 ppm) than that assumed The PU measure-

Shortcomings of Existing Greenhouse Models

mal balance, however. undetected opacity source compromises our understanding of the therthese particles could not be precluded by the PV Large Probe Cloud abundances were used [Tomasko 1983]. Even though the presence of Particle Spectrometer (LCPS) observations, the apparent need for any the observed thermal structure when the nominal (Venera H/I2) H_2O greenhouse. One of the most often quoted concerns is that this model the deep atmosphere thermal balance, but limitations in the input data required large numbers of "invisible" Mode 0 particles to reproduce and modeling methods precluded a definitive description of the Venus Pollack et al. [1980] added significantly to our understanding of

Uncertainties in the $m H_2O$ mixing ratios below the clouds have also e empirical baby ('O₂, H₂O, ofile. No tests imilar altitude uticular, diffe d by approxin ce the observe dues used her onditions, but photometer r 20 ppm at the er vapor abui calculations by these gase Gas Chrom profiles SHS iations adopted Sported by *Pol*temperatures were performed tograph results sults, which dedances that varent instruments to the thermal est that water comparisons of would not prosurface, as their Pollack et al.

ad absorptance and SO, at in

fraredwavelengths can introduce 100% errors for precine and absorber pathleng this beyond those used to III their empirical coefficients [ef Crisp et al 1986]. Other errors were inti L(1116(1) by short comings in the knowledge of the absorption by gases at most temperatures and pressures, like those encountered in the deep atmosphere of Venus

The neglect of multiple scattering at all thermal infrared wavelengths contributes another source of error. This simplification will produce negligible errors at wavelengths where $\rm H_2SO_4$ acrosses have very low single scattering albedos. In t (ould produce significant errors at wavelengths near 5 and 12μ NN here. Mode/3 particles have single scattering albedos near 0.6. 11, was not impossible to evaluate these errors until recently because of the (omputat 11)11,11

$$T_s = [2I_{\odot}(1 - a_s)/(1 - r)\sigma]^{1/4}.$$
 (22)

86 400 at the cloud tops ($-6.8 \, \mathrm{km}$), to $+ \mathrm{K} \, \mathrm{day}^{-1}$ at the base of the upper cloud. In he heating at these levels is associated primarily with the absorption of Ux radiation by the unknown cloud-top UX absorber LSFR observations indicate that this absorber is confined to altitudies above the base of the upper cloud. Within the middle and lower (louds, the globally averaged heating rates decrease from 0.19. If (iii) at 48.9 km. D(1 o\)" the clouds, the globally averaged heating rate continue to decrease monotonically to values near (1.008. If day 1 at 36.1 km and 0.001 K day 1 at the surface. The (computed globally averaged solar flux at the surface is 17. \\" m.2. or about 2.6% of the incident solar flux.

The PV Small Probe Net Hux Radiometers (ss1') and Large Probe Infrared Radiometer (LIR) were designed to provide detailed vertical profiles of the net thermal fluxes throughout the deep atmosphere. but their preliminary results included large errors that initially lead to confusion [Suomi et al. 1980; Ingersoll and Pechmann, 1980] and se i iously compromised their value for thermal balance studies. Revercomb et al. [1985] reanalyzed these measurements, identified plausible sources for the measurement witors, and derived "corrected" fluxes for both the SNFR and LIR instruments. These results were then analyzed with a radiative transfer model, (based on Pollack, 1969al), to yield new corstraints on the cloud particle populations, the global (list ribution of water vapor. and t he thermal cooling rates in the deep at mosphere. They found that the *Mode 3* number densities in the lower cloud in ferred from the LCPS observations were 1 (Sounder Probe) to 5 (NOI th Probe) times larger than those indicated by the observed net thermal fluxes if these particles were composed of 75% H₂ SO₄ vapor This reanalysis also confirmed earlier SNFR results [Suomi et al. 1980], which suggested that an additional source of thermal opacity was needed in the upper ('1011(1 (5871km)). This opacity could be supplied by the sub-micron *Mode* θ particles, or by enhancing the number density of Mode 2

Regardles of their origin, the meridional garaquemy innetthermal m ixc, inferredfrom the SNL q and LIR observations have direct implications for the thermal balance and dynamics of the deep atmosphere [Revereomb], 1 al 1985 | Because the net solar fluxes are (1xx) ect (0 to decrease with latitude, the observed net thermal flux increase with latitude suggests that the deep atmosphere is not in local radiative-COLLYCULARI, (111111)111111 Large scale dynamical processes must therefore transport a significant amount of heat between low and high latitudes in these levels A conventional, equiator-to pole Hadley cell might provide the meridional heat transportneeded to balance the observed variations in the netradiative cooling [Gierasch, 1975; Schubert, 1 983; Hou and Goody. 1985] This cell would produce rising motion at low latitudes, poleward flow near the top of the domain (cloud tops?) descending motion at high latitudes, and equator ward flow at depth. Because the temperature lapserates are moderately stable throughout much of the lower atmosphere, the r ising motion at low latitudes will be associated with adiabatic expansional cooling. Similarly, adiabatic compressional heating will occur in the descending, high-latitude branch of this cell. The netdynamical heating produced by this cell could therefore cornpensate for the horizontal variations in net radiative heating.

VEGA Ballogrand Lander Measurements

On June all and II5 1985, the Soviet VEGA mission deployed surface landers and meteorogical balloons in the Venus atmosphere. The two VEGA dealloons entered the atmosphere near local midnight and collected data for about 48 hours each as they were transported be yound the morning terminator by the prevailing east-west winds. Even though they were inserted at similar latitudes (7° 11' N and 6" 28' respectively), the two balloons sampled air masses separated by about 135° of longitude. Each balloon acquired in situ measurements of pressure, temperature, vertical wind velocity, cloud density, ambient illumination, and the frequency of lightning for about 48 hours as it floated at altitudes between about 50 and 54 km, within 1 he middle cloud [Sagdee v et al. 1986]

The VEGA Balloon measurements revealed several surprising features of the Thermal structure and dynamics of the middle cloud layer First, even though the observed temper at ure lapse rates were near adiabatic (stability ranging from O to 2K/km), as was expected from ear lier PV and Venera observations, the air masses sampled by the two balloons had temperature profiles the value of set by 6.5 K[Seiff (/ al. 1987]). The amplitude of this temperature difference was surprising because it is comparable to the pole to-equator gradient at these altitudes in addition. (1)111 balloons encountered vertical winds with amplitudes sometimes exceeding 3 m/s. Comparisons of observed temperatures and winds revealed upward convective heat fluxes between

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0 and $3.60\,\mathrm{W}$ m. . but the mean value for both balloons was $-40\,\mathrm{W}$ m. . This is comparable to the globally-averaged downward solarflux at these levels. These data confirm that convection 1. responsible for the majority of the vertical heat transport through the middle doud

The VEGA 2 Lander provided the first highresolutionmeasure-111(into of the atmospherictemperature singuing near

spelling

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1985. The se features might be associated with the ibsidia branch of a cloud level Hardle y circulation [Crisp et al., 1991b.

Finally XIR observations at wavelengths between 10 and 1.18 µm have been used to constrain the temperature lapse rates near the Venus surface. Companisons between synthetic radiance maps and spectral image cubes acquired during 1991 indicate night-side averaged temper ature lapse rates of 7 to 7.5 K/km in the lowest 6 km | Meadows and Crisp. 1996]. These lapse rates indicate much greater static stability than those inferred from earlier measurements and greenhouse models (s to 8.5 K/km) [c.f. Seiff 1983; Seiff c/al 1987] If confirmed by subsequent observations, these results might indicate the presence of significant radiative 10 ssc5 from the surface during the Venus night

Recent Advances in Radiative Transfer Modeling Met hods

Additional insight into the thermal balance of the deep atmosphere has been provided through the development of progressively more sophisticated and reliable numerical radiative transfer models. In the late 1970's, when the last comprehensive investigations of the deep atmosphere were conducted, the approximations and simplifications required for computational efficiency (empirical band models, two stream solutions to the equation of transfer, neglect of scattering processes at thermal wavelengths) substantially limited the reliability and range of validity of even the most sophisticated models. Their accuracy was further limited by uncertainties in the optical proper ties of gases at high temperatures and pressures. Recent advances it our understanding traints on the opac-

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m⁻². '1'11('s(') flux reductions are markably—mil arto those obtained by adding Mode# particles to the upper cloud [Pollack et al. 1980; [Su omi et al. 1980]. In spite of its large in ipact on the thermal fluxes at the top of the atmosphere—the neglect of multiple scattering at their mal wavelengths produces no cooling rate errors farger than about 10% in the deep atmosphere (1) igure 5).

The nominal atmospheric 115O profile used in these calculations has a mixing ratio of 30 ppmybetween the surface and the cloud base [Pollack et al. 1993] (for Bergh of al. 1995]. To determine the effect of much larger writer vapor abundances, like those adopted in earlier greenhouse models, fluxes and heating rates were computed with the Venera 1 1/12 Spectrophotomete: profile [Moroz of al 1978], which was adopted as the nominal profile by Pollack et al. [1980] (Figures 4 and 5). The largest flux differences are seen at wavenumbers less than 3000 I[1-11], in the strong H₂O rotationband, and within the strong water vibration-rotation bands centered near 1 580 and .1(10) Cm Somewhat surprisingly, the net spectrally-integrated difference between the fluxes at the top of the at

assensitive ${f 10}$ these (loud optical depth changes, the nereffed Lof a 50% decrease in the cloud particle density is to increase the not read jative heating throughout the uppercloud (06 to 0.028 bar) by and increase the netradiative cooling, in the middle and lower (louds 1) \ aabout0.2 K/day. These results suggest that long lived variations in the cloud particle number densities - likethose inferred from ground based NIR observations (If the night side, could produce temperature variations within the middle and lower clouds as large as those observed by the two VEGA Balloons If this were the (ase, the warmer temperatures measured lyx v VEGA Balloon I suggests that it may have floate () in m airmasswererthe clouds were more deuse, while the the cooler VEGABall oon 2 profile suggests I hat it floated in a less dense region of the cloud. This conclusion is supported by the available cloud density observations obtained by that mission. The nephelometer carried by VEGABalloon I recorded some of 1 the highest particle densities ever seen within the Venus clouds [Ragent et al. 1987]. '1 he nephelometer did not work on the second VE GA Balloon, but the VEGA? Lander cloudParticle Experiment detected very few large particles within the middle and lower clouds [Moshkin et al. 1986].

V. THERMAL BALANCE OF THE MESOSPHERE

The pioneering study of the the rmal balance of the Venus meso sphere was conducted by *Dickinson* [1–972]. In that investigation, the globally-averaged radiative equilibrium temperature structure was derived at altitudes between 66 and 130 km for a pure CO₂ atmosphere. The radiative transfermodel included the effects of non-local thermodynamic equilibrium, but did not include a rigorous treatmen



rotating cloud --top zo tal winds would continue to accelerate atmeso-sphericle vels (to values as high

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diaive for ing were not ye tidentified in the early 1980's wher Taylor et al. [19-3] reviewed this topic in Venus. In their review, the y proposed that the high polar mesospheric temperatures might be produced by a compressional heating in the descending branch of an axially-symmetric, equator-to pole Hadley cell. (ii) enhanced highlatitude solar heating associated with increases in the atmospheric partilleng the andabundances of (optically-thin) polarmesospheric aerosols. (iii) the absorption of the intense upwelling thermal adiation emitted by The polar hot spots by CO₂ and aerosols at mesospheric levels, or some corbination of these DIOC (%s(%). Subsequent modeling studies have shown that none of these mechanisms can account for the observed thermal

versed mesospheric thermal structure is a consequence of the interactions between the vertically-propagating atmospheric thermal tides and the zonal superrotation [Fels and Lind en 1974; Baker and Leovy 1987; Newman and Leovy, 1992]. These studies are described in the next two subsections.

Radiative Forcing of the Mesosphere

In spite of the radiatively anomalous nature of the observed mesospheric thermal structure, radiative forcing was implicated in two of the three mechanisms proposed for maintaining this feature. [Crisp. 1983; 1986:1989] developed a radiative-convective-equilibrium (RCE) [110(1 ('1 10 provide a more detailed)]

(messing a word,?)

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tound that the observed thermal structure could be maint, med in the presence of the nominal radiative forcing by meridional cell with up wardvert 1 ('al velocities < 1 cm s (1 1 low 1 attitudes poleward velocities of . 10 m s ⁻¹ at altitudes nearthe 1116 opause lownwardverthal velocities of < 2.3 ('111s ⁻¹ at high latitudes 85 and a weak 1 1 m s · 9) equatorward flow at altitudes between H(L and 64km (1 gure 10))

Because this meridional circulation cells. Thermodynamically indirect (i.e. it is not a consequence of hotauris and and cold an sinking, like a Hadley cell), it must be driven by an external momentum source. Certisp. [1983, 1989] proposed that this forcing could be provided by the interaction between the vertically propagating atmospheric thermal tides generated at the cloud tops and the mean zonal super-rotation [c.f. Fels and Lindzen, 1974]. In these models, the tides generated xx ithin the upper cloud deck (5.7 to 71km) propagate to higher mesospheric levels (s.t.) to 100 km.), where they are strongly damped by radiative cooling [Crisp 1983; 1989]. This radiative damping causes the tides to transfer their momentum to the zonal flow at these levels. Because the tides have phase speeds near 4 m/s (prograde), they act as source of drag on the strong (-100 m s⁻¹) retrograde zonal super-rotation at their damping altitudes. This tidal drag decelerates the super-rotation in the upper mesosphere and forces a thermod

trolleter between 12 October and 14 December 1983 provide the most comprehensive, simultaneous, global description of the thermal structure and optical properties of the mesosphere. This instrument collected more than 1500 moderate-resolution (5 to 7 cm⁻¹) thermal infrared (270 to 1650 cm⁻¹) spectra at latitudes between 60° S and 87° N. These spectra were analyzed to retrieve a self-consistent description of the thermal structure, aerosol distribution, and SO₂ mixing ratios at altitudes between 60 and 90 km [Zasava and Moroz, 1992].

The Venera 15 temperatures and aerosol distributions were also used to derive solar heating rates and thermal cooling rates at mesospheric levels [Schafer et al. 1990; Hans and Goering, 1990; Titov, 1995]. Their solar radiative transfer model incorporated the Modified Eddington approximation [Meador and Weaver 1980] and the 2-stream Adding method [Lacis and Hansen, 1974; Crisp, 1983; 1986] to find solar fluxes and heating rates in the presence of gas and aerosols absorption and scattering. A line-by-line model was used to derive the monochromatic optical properties of gases. Unlike in earlier thermal balance models, these investigators derived thermal fluxes from a model

that could accommod at e-multiple-scar tering as well as absorption by gases and aerosols (sur ((-sive orders of scattering)) {Schäfer (tal 1990)

The Venera D the rmal balance stridies confirm that the sol ar heat ing rates in the low ermesosphere (60 701,111) (1('D('11(1 strongly (III the assumed distribution ()[the II (SO) are rosols and the UV absorbemear the cloud top. The nominal acrosol models adopted by Haus and Goer ing_s [1990]have larger H₂SO₄, 1(10) osoland UV absorber optical depths at levels above 65 km than those inferred from PV observations. [Tomasko et al. 1980; 1985; Crisp. 1 983 | 1986 | Because of this. Haus and Go ering find solar heating rates at levels between 65 and 73 km that are 2 з к day Hargerthan those derived in the earlier studies. Ataltitudes above 73 km, Haus and Goering, [1090]" findsolarheating rates that are significantly lower 1 han those derived in the earlier studies. These heating rate differences are most likely cause of the use of different CO_2 absorption line data bases. While $H \grave{a}\!us$ and Goering used line parameters from the 1976 version of the AFGL line cat alog [Rothman et al. 1976], Cr isp. [1983, 1986] u sed values from the 1980 version of this database [Rothman, 1981], which included a more complete description of the weak near-infrared overtone bands at wavelengths less that $2.15\mu\mathrm{m}$. The absorption of sunlight in these bands dominates the near-infrared heat ing rates at most mesospheric levels. Haus and Goering, [1990] also find that the thermal cooling rates depend strongly on the distribution of aerosols in the upper cloud, but these cooling rates are much less sensitive to the neglect of multiple scattering, or the abundance of H₂O.

Even though the latitude-dependent solar heating and thermal cooling (list ributions derived by Hausand C;OC7171fg, [1990] are qualitatively similar to those obtained from PV observations [Crisp 1983; 1986; 1989], the net radiative heating rates are significantly different. Crisp found net radiative heating all latitudes equatorward of $\sim 400^\circ$ and net radiative cooling at higher witudes at most mesospheric levels. This net heating distribution indicates that the mesosphere is roughly in global radiative equilibrium at %%%

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Sestent with the result—derived from PV observations by Crisp 1983-1989However. — Eitor finds that net cooling also prevails at low v_c in tudes above the cloud top—while Crisp finds net he ating there

Temporal Variations in the

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reasonably well unders tood. Groundbased and spacecraft observations acquired since the late 1970 s. ((1) [1])111(4) withimproved modeling methods and clargely ((1))1111(1), that the thermal balance of the deep atmosphere IS maintained by an efficient atmosphering reenhouse mechanism. (1.11)(sumpolarmesosphere has been attributed to the presence of athermodynamically indirect mericional circulation cell that is driven by interactions between atmospheric thermal 11(1)(cs) and the zonal super-rotation. However, there are several other aspects of the Venu's thermal structure and thermal balance that are not yet well understood. For example, we still know very ittle about the the small structure in the lowest all mospheric scale height, and we have no direct measurements of temperatures poleward of 60°. The radiative and dynamical processes associated with the large scale variations in thermal structure and cloud particle number densities in the middle and lower cloud are largely

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FIGURE CAPTIONS

Figure 1—Temperature structure of the Venus lower atmosphere from the PioneerVenus SounderProbe (spii(), and theVIGA21 <iiiiiiii () the PioneerVenus probes transmitted no data between the surface and 12 km (from Seiff et al. 1987)

Figure 2 Static stability (dT/dz 1') of the Venus loweratm phere from the Pioneer Venus Sounder Probe (solid) and the VFGA 2 Lander ()

(from Seiff et al 1987)

Figure 3. The zonally-averaged temperature field as a 11111 ction of latitude from rv OIR observations. The dashed line shows the level of cloud optical

depth unity (from Taylor et al. 1980).

I ig ure 1. Synthetic spectra of the their mal flux emitted by the Venus atnosphere for (i) nominal gas (30ppmv H₂O) and aerosol optical properties, (ii) nominal gas) optical properties, with aerosol absorption but no aerosol scattering, and (iii) nominal aerosol optical properties, but H₂O abundances from Venerall/12Spectrophotometer restricts (20-2C 10ppn/iv).

Figure 5. Radiative cooling rates for (i) nominal gas (30ppmvH₂O) and aerosol optical properties, (ii) nominal gas) optical properties with aerosol absorption, but no aerosol scattering, and (iii) nominal aerosol optical properties, but H₂O abundances from Venera 11/12 Spectrophotometer

results (20 200ppmv).

Figure 6. Solar heating rates and thermal cooling rates (11 (1) nominalgas and aerosol optical properties, (ii) 5[1% reductions in the middle and lower cloud aerosol optical depths, (iii) 60% increase in the middle and lower cloud aerosol optical depths; (a) globally-averaged solar heating rate es, (b) heating rate differences. (c) thermal cooling

















